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are sane and reasonably definite in view of the extreme terseness of the Constitutional provision relative to the power of Congress to regulate commerce and the fact that the question is still far from being wholly adjudicated in the courts.

The author claims that his essay is a return to the older and correct view of Curtis and Bancroft, that the Constitution of the United States is not a trade convention; it is the framework of a national government with strong coercive powers, formulated by the political, social, and financial leaders of the time, under the influence of great fear, for the purpose of protecting themselves and their property." "This determination of the dominant party in the convention drew into its design all incidental powers bestowed upon the new government; and a correct view of the scope which the members intended to give to the several powers, including that over commerce, cannot be obtained without recognition of this dominant purpose."

The book contains two appendices and a fairly full index.

W. R. M.

A Law Dictionary. By Henry Campbell Black. Second edition. St. Paul, Minn. West Publishing Co., 1910. pp. vi, 1314.

The task of the compiler of a law dictionary becomes more difficult in geometrical progression year by year, as the scope, aim and study of the law are broadened to include the rapidly-increasing bulk of human knowledge; for the law reaches out and bodily assimilates many of the sciences akin to it, such as psychiatry, criminology, and the broad field of medical jurisprudence, and the terms and phrases of these sciences must be included in any modern law dictionary. But the work of our lexicographer grows almost correspondingly less difficult as he pays due heed to, and makes good use of, the work of his ancient and modern fore-runners. A study of the latest edition of the well-known legal dictionary of Mr. Black leads one to the conclusion that the author realizes, and has fully met, both of these demands upon him.

This volume, undoubtedly the standard among single-volume law dictionaries, embodies many features which make it indispensable to the student or practitioner. "For the convenience of those who desire to study the law in its historical development," as the author states, "as well as in its relations to political and social philosophy, * * * * and in view of the modern interest in

comparative jurisprudence and similar studies," it has been necessary to select the terms defined from the jurisprudence of all nations, embracing such out-of-the-way juristic systems as the Lombardic, Mexican, and Hindu, and the more recent Australian and Canadian. The terminology of all branches of medical jurisprudence has been searched and arranged and is here set forth in convenient shape for the searcher after understanding of this most variable adjunct of the law. In addition to the comprehensive treatment of words and synonyms, the book includes a complete collection of legal maxims, Latin, French and English, occurring throughout the book in their alphabetical places. The work, however, is not entirely infallible, as is shown by the omission of the recently-discussed word "maresme" (2 Swanston, 170) of old English and French law, which somehow manages to be left out of the lexicographies.

Painstaking revision and excellent typography distinguish the second edition. It is an ideal law dictionary.

C. R. W.

The Visigothic Code. Translated and edited by S. P. Scott. The Boston Book Company, Boston, 1910. pp. lxxiv, 419.

Rarely, indeed, does a practicing lawyer, in his search for precedents, go back in the history of the law, even to the fourteenth or fifteenth century. Never would the average attorney think of tracing an ordinary matter back to, say, the sixth or seventh century. For practical use, therefore, to the average man, Mr. Scott's translation of the *Visigothic Code*, in spite of the fact that the *Code* shows in many of its titles a remarkable completeness and similarity to modern ideas of justice, and in spite of the fact that "it forms, to-day, the basis of the jurisprudence of a large portion of the civilized nations of the earth," is of little value. The *Visigothic Code* is, however, as is stated in the dedication of the work, "one of the most venerable monuments of jurisprudence," and, if the present translation serves to bring the *Code* to the more popular attention of the profession or is at all instrumental in preserving it, the work will be well worth while.

There is a most interesting preface to the book, which covers about forty pages. This preface tells of the rise to power of the Goths, of their embracing Christianity in 587, A. D., and of